

be tampering with it. What this amendment would do and this bill would do, it would circumvent Initiative 300, and I think this is wrong, folks. We shouldn't be doing that. If we want to change it, let's be up front, introduce a constitutional amendment and put it on the ballot and see what they want. But I say to you if you do it this time around, the people are not ready, the people are not ready to change. In fact I think that a constitutional amendment would get beaten very badly, very badly. But let's be up front about it instead of trying to pass this amendment or adopt this amendment and then pass a bill. This is how we lose our credibility down here, and if this bill is advanced, we will lose our credibility if we have any left. Many years ago I can remember, I've been in this Legislature, in this body, for 11 years and I can remember the first year I was down here, the farmers came to us and they said, we need help, but we didn't listen to them. We went on about our ways. Sure we introduced bills and held public hearings, but we didn't...we were not serious about it and so we didn't pass any bills. So they took it into their own hands. They had a petition drive and they got it on the ballot and they passed it. So now we need to live with it. I'm a strong supporter of economic development. I think I've served on about as many committees as anybody and have worked very hard on it. It is true, maybe it has hurt economic development. I don't know, but I don't think it's been all that bad. So let's wait another couple years, see how it works, and then come down here and be up front with it, introduce a constitutional amendment and let the people vote on it. So I would urge you to vote down this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Weihing is next. May I remind you that we are talking about the Conway amendment. We've been straying a little bit away from it, but back to the Conway amendment. Senator Weihing, please. Then Senator Haberman.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, and, Mr. President, I thank you for commenting on that because much of the discussion has not been on the amendment. I just simply want to point out that the amendment is a friendly amendment and it is one that we felt would clarify and identify, it broadens to make it a business instrument that really is useful within the total scope of the business instruments with which we have to deal in doing business within Nebraska. I thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please. Then Senator Moore. We're on the Conway amendment.